

Determinants of Child Labor in District Malakand, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

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Abstract

The study's goal is to look at the primary causes of child labor in the Malakand district. According to this survey, the majority of working children are males who labor outside of the house to help their parents meet their basic requirements and are under the age of 14 and their moms are housewives, while the men are unemployed, physically healthy, and not drug addicts. The father's income is the primary source of revenue for the family of working children; however, their combined income is insufficient to meet their family's requirements. The majority of working children make up to 5,000 PKR per month, but their entire family earns up to 30,000 PKR, which is insufficient to cover their basic necessities. The regression findings showed that the number of working children in the household, as well as father education, have a positive and substantial influence on the number of working hours per day. The physical fitness of the children's dads, the children's family income, and the children's income all have a negative and considerable impact on the children's daily working hours. As a result, this study found that the size of working children's families, father education, physical fitness of the children's dads, children's family income, and children's income are the most important factors influencing child labor. This research proposed that the government focus on education, particularly in the technical sector, to improve income and unemployment benefits, as well as other incentives for disadvantaged families, in order to prevent child work.

Keywords: family size; Child labor; regression analysis; poverty; Malakand

Contextual of the Study

Child labor (CLB) is a worldwide problem with largely socio-economic causes (Save the Children Denmark, 2003). Despite international labor norms and state legislation designed to protect minors from economic misuse. An important indicator of many economies, both official

and informal, across the world, particularly in developing nations (Admassie, 2000). CLB in a range of vocations, including farming, household work, home-based employment, factory and shop work, mining and construction, street selling, and the pornography industry (Pine *et al.*, 2009). Nonetheless, not all job is harmful to children; acceptable employment is defined as one that does not jeopardize children's psychological, physiological, sociological, or ethical development or interfere with their schooling (Rickey, 2009). According to existing studies, moderate labor or non-hazardous job may benefit a child's development since it provides labor market skills, instills confidence in youngsters, and provides a cash source (Bunnak, 2007; Rickey, 2009). According to Priyambada *et al.* (2005), the fundamental cost of CLB appears to be the resulting considerable drop in investment in the kid's productive potential. Because child labor begins to interfere with primary education, either by motivating students to withdraw or by making the knowledge process in educational institutions useless. Even if a working child enrolls in school, this does not guaranty the amount of time spent in class and labor might impair their focus, making it harder for them to study and finish their tasks. When children are compelled to work, they are considerably less likely to pursue secondary or elementary school, perpetuating a generational cycle of poverty (Sakurai, 2007). Numerous studies have found that employment has a adverse impression on children's school engagement rates (Shah & Steinberg, 2021).

CLB is a global issue, but it is especially widespread in poor countries, as is the case in Pakistan. Child labor impedes the country's growth, and it has defamed Pakistan (Kousar *et al.*, 2019). Pakistan is rapidly increasing its uneducated population. According to the research, over 32 million individuals are illiterate, and more than 7 million children ages 5 to 51 do not attend school (Shah and Steinberg, 2021). Females enroll in primary school at a 30% rate, whereas boys attend at 57% (Cigno *et al.*, 2002). According to Pakistan's national legislation, no kid under the age of fourteen may work in a factory or quarry, or in any other dangerous employment or activity that jeopardizes their health or education, or interferes their physiological, and psychological. The existing status of CLB in Pakistan also contradicts the region's established laws and regulations protecting children's fundamental human rights. Children must be protected from cultural and psychological problems in order to develop properly and ensure long-term human growth and prosperity (Fassa *et al.*, 2000). Working children's psychosocial development is affected by long hours, stress from having too many responsibilities, and a lack of knowledge. CLB can outcome in human trafficking, abuse, and a violation of children's rights, well-being, and development (Ul-Haq *et al.*, 2020). In this light, the current study investigates the many socioeconomic and cultural drivers of CLB in Pakistan, specifically in Pakhtun society, with a focus on Malakand Davison in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Pakistan. The research focuses on the situations that force children to work and are having a negative impact on many elements of life. The current study focuses on characteristics related with social structure, familial ties, divorce, and even familial disputes, which appear to have a significant influence in growing child labor.

CLB is a substantial barrier to achieving several of the 2030 SDGs, including poverty alleviation. Child labor also has obvious consequences for achieving access to basic education, which the international community views as a holistic vision for sustainability (Betcherman *et al.*, 2004). According to Ray (2000), while the Industrial Revolution is commonly linked with portrayals of bulky numbers of children employed in factories, its antecedents may be traced back much deeper to the pre-industrial period. Still, over the preceding century, wealthy countries grew increasingly conscious of the detrimental effects of CLB. As a consequence, it may be stated that CLB is not a new societal problem. Furthermore, in certain places, such as Bhutan and Mali, the con-

tribution percentage of children aged 10 to 14 in the labor force approaches 50%. As a result, juvenile labor constitutes a large share of the overall workforce in many developing countries (ILO, 2002). Whereas the ILO anticipated 52 million children in CLB in 1979, the figure had climbed to 78.50 million by 1990, according to Ray (2000), and it reached 100.00 million in 1985. In Pakistan, 3.3 million children (ages 5 to 14) are professionally employed full-time, with 73% being males and 27% being girls. Adolescents in rural regions contribute eight times more to employment than they do in urban areas. The proportion of economically engaged children aged 10 to 14 is more than four times higher than that of children aged 5 to 9. In distant regions, 74.00% of children work in agriculture, whereas in urban areas, 31.00% of CLB in manufacturing. In all areas, the proportion of females engaged in manufacturing and services is more than the median of boys, showing that girls are more likely than boys to contribute in these industries. The bulk of child laborers (93 percent) in non-agricultural industries operate in informal businesses (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), 2023).

Many working children in Pakistan's rural regions labor in the informal sector. The informal sector is usually beyond the purview of official regulation (Alam, 2015). The capacity to execute child labor protection legislation is a difficulty owing to present unstable structural systems, poor legal protection, and outdated rules. In Pakistan, the debate over CLB has raged for years, with all groups engaged defending their own concerns (Wright, 2003). Current study is necessary to amend and alter existing legislation controlling the eradication of child labor. Despite several research attempting to explain child labor exploitation, none have established the fundamental determinants of CLB exploitation in a given scenario. As a result, this study is unique in that it is the first to look at the determinants of CLB in District Malakand, Pakistan, with ages spanning from 5 to 17, with the primary purpose of finding socioeconomic factors that impact child labor hours. To develop successful measures for decreasing and eventually eliminating CLB, the major factors of CLB must be identified. As a result, this study looks at the influence of socio-demographics and other variables on child labor in District Malakand.

This research study focused on child labor in Pakistan and how the two governments collaborate to minimize CLB through various organizations and agencies. In addition to recognizing and assessing the numerous reasons of the global epidemic of CLB, a brief overview of how CLB has been investigated thus far. In addition, this document outlines how to assist the government comprehend the importance of issues like CLB, education, and living circumstances. As a result, this study will be more valuable to the Pakistani government and other child protection organizations in putting an end to these terrible and inhumane acts and protecting children. As a consequence, the current study's rapid outcome will provide policymakers with meaningful findings and policy implications. Furthermore, we anticipate that the study will provide useful results to the current body of knowledge and will inspire or initiate new research in the field, since it paved the way for future research into the critical variables of CLB using cross-sectional data analysis.

Literature Review

Holgado *et al.* (2016) dug deeper into the educational, economic, and labor-related elements that lead to child labor. A hierarchical segmentation strategy was used with a sample of 3259 households participating in a CLB educational prevention program on Colombia's Caribbean Coast. Two kid labor profiles were predicted using the methodology. Child labor has been linked to forced displacement in rural and suburban families over the last five years. Child work is mostly

associated with family income and mother characteristics throughout her childhood in urban families. Hussain and Saud (2017) examined the primary supply-side financial determinants affecting working children in Pakistan's Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). Child laborers employed in many ICT business marketplaces have contributed critical information. The problem was considered to be best explored using a purposive sampling method. Their data show that guardians' lack of awareness and obliviousness, big family numbers, low guardian wages and poor work status, and a low proportion of adult business were the causal drivers of teeny employment. Such working teenagers are frequently untrained and secure jobs at a young age, and they are vulnerable when working hours are extended in deplorable circumstances, they lack necessary and legal nourishment and clothing, and they have little relaxation and diversion. In a nation like Pakistan, laws restricting CLB are not ideal. As things stand, kiddie work regulations will not be able to prevent this exploitation of children's labor. Various measures, such as poverty reduction programs, additional instructional offices, and professional development, are critical in this respect.

Ali *et al.* (2017) researched child labor in instances when it is dangerous, unpaid home labor, and occurs in local businesses. The overarching purpose of this research is to produce theoretical generalizations that will help us understand the causes of concealed hazardous CLB in similar situations, ultimately leading to effective strategies for eradication or regulation. The researchers determined that kiln workers are mainly overlooked by society. Their fragile life offers them with little prospects for progress. Researchers say that in order to improve the working conditions of kiln workers, it is necessary to make an environment in which they may use their legislative, political, and economic rights. Furthermore, academics believe that a multi-stakeholder framework established by the government may create such an atmosphere. According to Sharif *et al.* (2018), child labor is deeply established and pervasive throughout Pakistan, with a particularly severe and exceptional occurrence in District Multan. This study investigates the socio-economic characteristics associated with child labor in car factories. Child labor and poverty were the primary factors in this study. The survey investigation was conducted using a quantitative technique. The current study was conducted in Punjab's Multan district. As a result, child laborers were evenly distributed across the research design. The snowball sampling approach had been utilized. A total of 80 persons from various vehicle dealerships were chosen as responders. The bulk of the youngsters were underprivileged and either lacked or had a minimal education. Dammert *et al.* (2018) revealed that wealth, uncertainty, and the relative rewards to employment and education all influence domestic child labor decisions. Because CLB is such a complex issue. This researcher analyzed 33 impression assessments to provide a comprehensive understanding of how social protection and labor policies affect CLB. Despite the difficulties of drawing generalizations from disparate ideas, implementation environments, and policy instruments, some tendencies are developing. In most cases, transfers reduced CLB. Likewise, services that help families deal with uncertainty, such as health insurance, discourage the use of child work at home.

Ali (2019) study claims that adjusting for variation in children's job settings might help to explain the literature's inconsistent findings. This variability may vary significantly in parents' perceptions of the benefits of their children's job. To test the proposed hypothesis, the researcher calculated the influence of parental income on CLB. This dataset includes extensive information regarding child laborers' working conditions. The outcomes indicate that parental-income has no inspiration on CLB among children who work in harmless jobs, that are not physically demand-

ing, or in family companies. Based on data from 30 countries, Chauhan and Noor-ul-Ain (2019) discovered that the presence of child labor is connected with high rates of poverty and unemployment, as well as poor levels of social development and educational performance. The model is being used to investigate the bond between the response variable (CLB) and the predictor variables (poverty, and unemployment). The data is collected for 30 nations. The data indicate that poverty has a positive link with child labor, but social development and unemployment have a negative relationship. Furthermore, schooling moderates the causal effects of socioeconomic development on CLB. According to Naz *et al.* (2019), CLB has significant consequences for children, their families, and possibly society as a whole. In September 2013, the researchers conducted a study of several mechanical workplaces in Batkhela city, mostly employing a quantitative research methodology and qualitative discourse. For quantitative research, a database of all the children in the population was created, resulting in 4355 CLB in various configurations (on average, 2-8 CLB), and a sample of 200 children aged 5-18 years old was selected at random, providing the age group with the most representation. The Chi-square Test was used at the 5% level to inspect the bond between a variety of factors influencing child labor.

According to Latif *et al.* (2020), CLB in brick kilns is a substantial aspect of the CLB problem that is hampering the country's overall development. Numerous factors impact CLB; however, the current study concentrated on socioeconomic and political aspects. They investigator employed non-probability sampling. The study used a qualitative research technique, which included in-depth interviews, to analyze the present study's stated purpose. The researcher conducted 30 interviews using a purposive sample method. Their analysis is based on notions revealed throughout data processing. Using theme analysis, they concluded that CLB in Pakistan is caused by a lack of education, a need for extra funding, and a lack of official monitoring. According to the findings, a necessity for abolishing child labor is the future implementation of government regulations and proper monitoring. According to Ilyas *et al.* (2020), the poor group is believed to engage in child labor due to poverty, a lack of education, or a lack of alternative options; nonetheless, some children work willingly. Furthermore, in recent years, a growing number of scholars have concentrated their efforts on the critical question of "why children are involved in CLB in the informal sector (IFS)." Although a few studies have looked into the motivations of IFS, none have looked into the motivations of child laborers working in the informal sector. They investigating the motivations of child laborers using three contrasting IFS theories. They involved face-to-face structured interviews with 45 child workers engaged in several car workshops in Lahore, Pakistan. The snowball sampling approach was chosen to choose responders because it is suitable for investigating sensitive problems and is feasible with small sample numbers. The most intriguing finding is that no single rationale applies to all kid laborers. The majority of youngsters working in auto workshops in their wished to start their own workshop company in the future, demonstrating that entrepreneurial spawning is a key predictor of child labor.

Shahid and Khan (2020) employed 3SLS methodologies to assess the relationships between 2001 and 2015. The data show that both the informal economy and child labor benefit from one other. It maintains the poverty cycle and underdevelopment. As a result, in developing countries, child labor contributes greatly to economic growth, while economic prosperity promotes child labor. Nevertheless, the informal economy contributes to economic development as the official sector diminishes. As a result, a complex and contentious link has emerged between the IFS, CLB, and GDP in emerging countries. Population increase benefits the informal sector. Population increase and age dependency benefit child labour, whereas globalization has a detrimental influence. To

shrink the informal sector and eradicate child labor while sustaining strong economic growth, a diversified strategy is needed. Controlling population growth has emerged as one element that may lead to the collapse of informal economies and child labor. Sahoo (2021) studied the trends and frequency of CLB in India, as well as the distribution of CLB across various social categories. They investigated the impact of children's socioeconomic origins on their labor market participation. This study uses data from the Indian census as well as the NSSO's 66th wave of statistics in India (2009-2010). For the paper's assessment, the researcher assessed the explanatory factors for CLB. The findings of this study show that poverty is not the sole factor influencing CLB; gender and race also play important roles. Children from lower-caste homes in India tend to be more active in the labour market. Ahad *et al.* (2021) discovered that a high proportion of child workers are compelled to work under bad conditions, resulting in poor health and financial loss. They determine what factors impact CLB and what their working conditions are like. According to demographic data, the bulk of child workers are young youngsters (12-14 years old), with 32.5 percent having never attended school. Musculoskeletal discomfort and dermatological disorders were common among youth laborers due to their present employment and working conditions (p 0.05).

Based on the broad literature analysis shown above, this study classified the determinants of CLB into three major categories: social elements of CLB, demographic aspects of CLB, and economic factors of CLB. In the following section, the researcher has developed and identified the prevalent factors that contribute to CLB and actively engaging children in GDP in the context of Pakistan, particularly rural areas of the Malakand district.

Determinants of Child Labor

A wide range of social, demographic, and economic factors influence child labor.

Social factors of child labor

Children are expected to assist and participate with their family on domestic tasks. Children have also been placed in traineeships to learn their forefathers' skills and preserve cultural standards. Certain communities linked with a certain race, trade, or vocation have a habit of handing down and preserving specific jobs over generations as a matter of routine or destiny. When children are overloaded, domestic duties may interfere with their education and enjoyment. Certain cultural and historic standards are occasionally invoked to legitimize CLB. Cultural variables may also contribute to the prevalence of CLB by influencing the costs and advantages of putting children to work as seen by the family; nevertheless, societal views toward child labor may feed its persistence if the social system is ready to allow it. According to Silvers (1996), bonded child labor is common among Pakistan's lowest castes, and most youngsters see bonding as a source of pride as they grow into adulthood. Increased population growth rates, on the other hand, are a frequent feature of growing economies and hence are linked to asset markets, with families rationally determining the number of children to maximize the household's market value. According to Baland and Robinson (2000), as long as asset markets work and there are trades between parents and children, parents control the amount of CLB, which affects their children's future productivity.

Demographic factors of child labor

In certain cultures, a child's initial emotional impact, exposure to community, and exposure to the outside world is provided by the family. This occurs in millions of farming homes around the globe. If the family owns property or works on other people's land, the youngster will be required to spend a day on the farm with his parents, initially undertaking easy activities (International Labour Organization, 2004). The demographic determinants of child labour identified via this study's exhaustive literature research are described below.

Size of the household

According to Rickey (2009), the number of household members has a considerable influence on the employment and educational options accessible to the family's children. The occurrence of CLB is associated with a greater fertility rate. And it's no wonder that large families have significant CLB difficulties, as having children makes financial sense in difficult circumstances. Other study has shown that underprivileged parents in South Asian nations gain economically from having a big family. Children are regarded a valuable asset by their parents' poverty and basic survival requirements when compared to many other commodities. In a research study conducted by Rocky and Nathan (2011), claimed that a greater mortality rate correlates positively with the incidence of CLB; in other words, a high fertility rate enhances the possibility that children from big families would work and contribute to the family's revenue. When compared to other commodities, children are viewed as a valuable commodity by their parents.

Parental education

Parental education, in addition to influencing family income, has a constant and substantial influence on reducing the incidence of child labor. Uneducated parents would naturally want to believe that their own parents' HK decisions were sound (Brown *et al.*, 2003). Datt and Ravallion (1998) observed that mothers' and fathers' educational levels had a detrimental impact on CLB in Bangladesh. Years and levels of father education had no effect on CLB in Vietnam (Rickey, 2009), however mother education had a negative influence on the likelihood of working or not working or receiving an education. Brown *et al.* (2002) revealed that parental education has a long-term, significant, and negative impact on a family's decision to put a kid to work, even after adjusting for household wealth. This phenomenon appears to be more common in predicting child labor than any other element.

Family assets

Household assets are important in areas with limited or no access to formal financial markets (Brown *et al.*, 2002). Families with internal resources may be able to borrow against the future. As a result, the provision of certain household assets is expected to minimize child labor. As a result, the mother's employment options, and the existence of a family business all play important roles in determining whether a child works, how many hours they work, and whether part-time education is an option.

Economics factors of child labor

Poverty

CLB is widely believed to be the effect of protracted poverty. Poor families employ CLB to shift wealth. Natural disasters, man-made tragedies (violence), helplessness, illiteracy, and a lack of adequate possibilities all exacerbate the difficulties experienced by poor parents who feel forced to send their children to work. Poverty is not the fundamental driver of child labor and cannot be used to justify all types of labor and slavery (International Labour Organization, 2004). According to Rena (2006), poverty forces millions of youngsters to work as laborers before attending school, and the majority are forced to leave school in the middle of a degree program to work as laborers. Children are cut off from their communities after being removed from school and forced to work. CLB is an issue inextricably related to poverty and underdevelopment. Poverty is widely seen as the fundamental cause of CLB in particular. As a result, CLB is increasingly common in these nations, particularly Asia and Africa. Child labor can assist to minimize the effects of a mite infestation, as well as the impact of employment loss or rising food expenses on urban households. Instead of investing in their children's education, disadvantaged families use child labor to augment their income (Rena, 2009). Most families rely on a girl's domestic labor to free up their parents' time to work outside. Children may choose to work because their families demand it, or because their friends and colleagues urge children to do it on the streets or someplace else (International Labour Organization, 2004).

Economic shocks

In order to get through the economic downturn, children are yanked out of school and put to work. However, overwhelming data from a wide variety of nations indicates that economic shocks have a considerable impact on the rate of CLB. Priyambada *et al.* (2005) also asserted that when family income drops abruptly and unexpectedly, such as due to the household head's job loss, children may work more frequently and attend school or study very little. The consequence of the economic crisis and rising food prices, on the other hand, is to drive people underground. Many individuals are driven into the informal economy to avoid high prices and the possibility of poor wages. In general, economic crises reduce labor market formalization (Kane, 2009).

Summary of Literature and Gap

The empirical data reveals that poverty is a significant supply side determinant of CLB at both micro and macro level; nonetheless, there is difference of view regarding the influence of poverty on CLB. Most of the research find that poverty is the major source of CLB (Maitra & Ray, 2002; Shaikh *et al.*, 2015). The influence of parental education on CLB is widely agreed upon. Almost all research agree that parental education has a detrimental influence on child labor, however opinions disagree on the relative impression parental education on CLB. The majority of research find that maternal education has a greater detrimental influence on CLB than father education (Khan & Ali, 2003; Kurosaki *et al.*, 2006). Some studies indicate that the father's education reduces kid labor force involvement more efficiently than the mother's (Nath & Hadi, 2000). Cultural and demographic variables also inspiration households' decisions on how to allocate their children's time. Because of cultural and demographic variations, the factors of child labor may differ between locations. Chaudhary and Khan (2002) argue that female schooling and

child work are uncommon in Dera Ismail Khan because the area's social system prohibits female children from leaving the house.

Empirical data demonstrates varied findings in terms of the association between child labor and parental employment and pay. Burki *et al.* (1998) find that mothers' employment has a negative impact on the likelihood of their children attending school and a favorable impact on their desire to work in Pakistan. A gender gap in education persists in developing nations, as evidenced by various empirical research in favor of males working as well.

Blunch and Verner (2001) discovered that girls are somewhat more likely than boys to work in Ghana. Jensen and Nielsen (1997) conclude that there is no substantial difference in the working conditions of children in Zambia. Some researchers have found that household size has a major impact on the occurrence of CLB. According to Chaudhary and Khan (2002), in Dera Ismail Khan, big families and inadequate education keep children out of school and lead to child labor. According to Khan and Ali (2003), in Punjab's Pakpattan and Faisalabad districts, school attendance is adversely connected to family size, although child labor is positively related. Kulsoom (2007) found that CLB in Pakistan is definitely related to the kid's age. The empirical research demonstrates varied results in terms of parents' altruistic conduct toward their children. One portion of the empirical research observes that parents invest more in their first child's education (Downey, 2001). The literature study conducted above demonstrates that several variables contribute to the phenomena of child work and child labor studies in specific regions or districts. The literature analysis also shows that no district-specific studies on child labor involvement have been completed in Malakand. So, primary data is used to conduct a study on the key supply-side factors of child labor in Malakand.

Methodology

Theoretical framework

The presumption here is that children do not make their own decisions autonomously. Rather, children are under the authority of their parents. As a result, a model of parental decisions may adequately describe every decision about whether a kid will work or study. Parents prioritize both present household spending and their children's human capital (HK) achievement. If a youngster is engaged in working, it obtains less education, which decides lower wages in future. Schooling is becoming an increasingly important role for children's human capital development. A youngster can attend school full-time, work full-time, mix work and education, or do neither. Parents, on the other hand, will determine what their children do. Parents optimize utility by children's HK, household members' leisure, and composite goods consumption, subject to household members' economic and time restrictions, as well as production functions (Becker & Lewis, 1973).

Research Nature

This study employed primary data acquired using a self-created questionnaire from the Malakand area. This study is based on original data obtained from the Malakand division. The relevant information is gathered from 267 child laborers, their parents, and employers using a systematic questionnaire devised for the purpose. The questionnaire is pretested and appropriately updated before being sent to the sample respondents. Child labor data has been gathered on socioeconom-

ic situations, income, work status, and other factors. Some information has been gathered from parents, educated residents of the sample region, and child labor employers on topics such as family income, occupation, and employers' attitudes regarding child work, among others. Because a credible framework on child labor exists in the Malakand area, this form of sampling was carried out at random from the district. The sample includes youngsters who work in tea stalls, restaurants, bicycle repair shops, garages, shoe polishing/repairing shops, and so on. The data was gathered via a self-created questionnaire sent to various sectors in the Malakand area.

Data Analysis Technique

Descriptive statistics and linear regression analysis were employed in this study to evaluate the causes of child labor in Malakand district.

Model for the study

This study also quantified the coefficients of the various variables influencing child labor in the Malakand area. The similar model was employed by Khan et al. (2018).

$$WHPD_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 FS_i + \beta_2 FEdu_i + \beta_3 FOcp_i + \beta_4 FPF_i + \beta_5 CFMI_i + \beta_6 CMI_i + \mu \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

Where, WHPD= Working hours per day (PKR)

FS= Size of working Children family (Numbers)

FEdu= Father's education level (a) Illiterate b) Read and write c) Class 1 to 6 d) Class 7 to 12 e) Diploma f) Degree)

a) FOcp= Father Occupation (a) Government employee b) Business c) Farming d) Daily Laborer e) Domestic Laborer f) unemployed g) not able to work

FPF= Father physical fitness (yes or no)

CFMI= Child Family Monthly Income (PKR)

CMI= Child Monthly Income (PKR)

Results and Discussion

Table 1 presents descriptive analysis, which shows that the majority of working child are male, who work outside from home to earn money to help the parents to satisfy expenditure on basic needs, working children ages are below 14 years, both parents are alive and they still working, father are died while his/her mothers are alive, both parents are alive and live with them, however, most of the children loss their fathers, family size are between 6 to 10 members, family heads are male and married, fathers and mothers are illiterate, mother are housewife, fathers are unemployed, not drug addicted, main source of income and physically fit, family income are not enough to fulfill their family needs, earn up to 5,000 PKR per month, working children family earn up to 30,000 PKR per month. Correspondingly, working in the workshops, full-time basis, and face difficulties in their current job. The work is arranged by parents for working children, and children start work due to low family income.

Table No. 1: Descriptive Analysis

Item	Categories	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Childs' Gender	Male	246	92.1	92.1
	Female	21	7.9	100
Child Age	Up to 10 years	21	7.9	7.9
	11-12 years	86	32.2	40.1
	13-14 years	132	49.4	89.5
	15 years and above	28	10.5	100
Working Children Parental Status	Yes	195	73	73
	No	72	27	100
The Working Children Mother or Father Died	Father	58	21.7	80.6
	Mother	14	5.2	100
The Working Children living with	Both Parents	195	73	73
	Mother	43	16.1	89.1
	Father	21	7.9	97
	Relative	8	3	100
Working Children's Family Size	5	15	5.6	5.6
	6	45	16.9	22.5
	7	64	24	46.4
	8	43	16.1	62.5
	9	43	16.1	78.7
	10	36	13.5	92.1
	11	14	5.2	97.4
	12	7	2.6	100
Family Head Status	Male	223	83.5	83.5
	Female	44	16.5	100
Parental Marital Status	Married	223	83.5	83.5
	Widowed	44	16.5	100
Working Children Father Education Level	Illiterate	136	50.9	52.3
	Read and write	35	13.1	65.8
	Class 1 to 6	67	25.1	91.5
	Class 7 to 12	22	8.2	100
Working Children Mother Education Level	Illiterate	216	80.9	85.4
	Read and write	14	5.2	90.9

	Class 1 to 6	15	5.6	96.8
	Class 7 to 12	8	3	100
Working Children's Mother's Occupation	Government employee	7	2.6	2.8
	Domestic Laborer	14	5.2	8.3
	Housewife	225	84.3	97.2
	Not able to work	7	2.6	100
Working Children's Father's Occupation	Farming	21	7.9	9.7
	Daily Laborer	28	10.5	22.7
	Domestic Laborer	21	7.9	32.4
	Unemployed	104	39	80.6
	Not able to work	42	15.7	100
Physical Status of working children Father	No	57	21.3	27.3
	Yes	152	56.9	100
Drug Status of the Working Children Father	No	180	67.4	86.1
	Yes	29	10.9	100
Main source of the working Children Family	Mother	14	5.2	5.2
	Father	130	48.7	53.9
	Child	49	18.4	72.3
	Relative	28	10.5	82.8
	Combination of above	46	17.2	100
The family income is sufficient to support the family expenditure	Yes	66	24.7	24.7
	No	180	67.4	92.1
	No Response	21	7.9	100
Working Child Monthly Income (PKR)	up to 5000	140	52.4	52.4
	5001-10000	85	31.8	84.3
	10001-15000	28	10.5	94.8
	15001 and above	14	5.2	100
Working Children Family Monthly Income (PKR)	up to 10000	35	13.1	13.1
	10001-20000	115	43.1	56.2
	20001-30000	103	38.6	94.8
	40001-50000	7	2.6	97.4
	50001 and above	7	2.6	100
The Main activity of working Child	Work only	201	75.3	75.3
	Both school and work	66	24.7	100
Working children work Status	Workshop	76	28.5	28.5

	Hotel	42	15.7	44.2
	Shops	49	18.4	62.6
	Others	100	37.5	100
Job's Type	Full time	111	41.6	41.6
	Part time	63	23.6	65.2
	Daily wages	93	34.8	100
Problems faced in Current Jobs	No	114	42.7	42.7
	Yes	153	57.3	100
Arrangement of this working activity	Myself	63	23.6	23.6
	Parents arranged it	104	39	62.5
	Friends	21	7.9	70.4
	Relatives	72	27	97.4
	Neighbors	7	2.6	100
The Main Reason of the Start of Work	Family broke up	7	2.6	2.6
	Workaholic Culture	15	5.6	8.2
	Low family income	200	74.9	83.1
	Peer influence	23	8.6	91.8
	I have no one to support me	7	2.6	94.4
	Death of Parents	15	5.6	100

Regression Analysis

Table 2 displays the regression findings for the many factors that influence children's working hours per day. The number of working children in a household has a favorable and considerable impact on the number of working hours each day. The findings of this investigation were consistent with (Patrinos & Psacharopoulos, 1997). A unit increase in family size increases the children's working hours by 0.810 unit. Similarly, father education has a good and large impact on children's working hours per day. A unit increase in the father's education level increases the children's working hours by 0.793 units. While the father's employment has a beneficial but minor impact on the children's working hours each day. The physical fitness of the children's dads has a negative and considerable impact on the children's daily working hours. Similar findings were reported by Edmonds (2007). Similarly, children's family income has a negative and considerable impact on the number of hours they labor each day. Similar results were reported by Holleran (1997). A unit increase in family income reduces the children's working hours by 1.256 units. The children's income has a negative and considerable impact on the number of hours they labor each day. A unit increase in children's income reduces their working hours by 0.455 units. The R-square value is 0.322, indicating that the factors included in the model account for 32% of the variance in the dependent variables. In short, the regression findings reveal that the size of a working child's household and the father's education have a positive and substantial influence on the child's daily working hours. While the father's employment has a beneficial but minor impact on the children's working hours each day. Similarly, the physical fitness of the children's dads, as well as the children's income and family income, all have a negative and significant impact on the children's working hours each day.

Table 2: Regression Results

Variables	Unstandardized Co-efficients		Standardized Coefficients	t-stat	Sig.
	B	Std. Error			
(Constant)	1.422	1.685		0.844	0.400
Size of Working Children family	0.810	0.124	0.438	6.526	0.000
Father's education level	0.793	0.202	0.250	3.919	0.000
Father's Occupation	0.055	0.159	0.021	0.344	0.732
Father physically fitness	-3.107	0.535	-0.434	-5.807	0.000
Child Family Monthly In-come	-1.256	0.296	-0.317	-4.244	0.000
Child Monthly Income	-0.455	0.228	-0.131	-1.997	0.047
R² = 0.322					
Adj. R² = 0.301					
a. Dependent Variable: Working hours per day					

Conclusion

Child labor is a significant barrier to achieving a variety of the 2030 Agenda. For long-term development and, in particular, poverty reduction. CLB also has obvious consequences for achieving access to basic education, which the international community views as a holistic vision of sustainability. In Pakistan, 3.3 million children (ages 5-14) are professionally employed full-time. There were 3.3 million CLB, with 73% being males and 27% being girls. To develop successful measures for decreasing and eventually eliminating CLB, the major factors of child labor must be identified. As a result, the purpose of this study is to look at the primary causes of CLB in Malakand District. This study is mixed in nature and relied on primary data acquired using a self-made questionnaire. This study investigated the causes of CLB in the Malakand district using descriptive statistics and linear regression analysis. According to this survey, the majority of CLB are males who labor outside of the house to help their parents meet their basic requirements and are under the age of 14. Similarly, the majority of respondents' parents are still alive and working, while some respondents' fathers have passed away while their moms are still alive and living with them. The bulk of respondents' family sizes range from 6 to 10 individuals, with male family leaders who are married. The majority of CLB's parents are illiterate, and their mothers are housewives, while their fathers are unemployed, physically healthy, and not drug addicts. The father's income is the primary source of revenue for the family of working children; however, the child's income is also a major source of income for the family of working children, but their combined income is insufficient to meet their family's requirements. The majority of working children make up to 5,000 PKR per month, but their entire family earns up to 30,000 PKR, which is insufficient to cover their basic necessities. The majority of working children work full-time, primarily in workshops, and experience problems at their existing jobs. Similarly, most of the job is organized by parents for working children who begin working owing to a poor family income. The regression findings showed that the number of working children in the household, as well as father education, have a positive and substantial influence on the number of working hours per day. While the father's employment has a beneficial but minor impact on the children's

working hours each day. The physical fitness of the children's dads, the children's family income, and the children's income all have a negative and considerable impact on the children's daily working hours. As a result, this study found that the size of working children's families, father education, physical fitness of the children's dads, children's family income, and children's income are the most important factors influencing child labor. This report proposed that the government focus on education, particularly in the technical sector, to enhance family income and prevent child work. Furthermore, the government offers disadvantaged families with unemployment benefits and other incentives to avoid child labor. The similar procedure must be used in other districts of Pakistan to validate the determinants of CLB.

Declarations

Ethics approval and consent to participate:

This study follows all ethical practices during writing and interpretations. Consent to participate is not applicable.

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